



Post Office Box 1282

Austin, TX 78767

www.originalaustin.org

13 January 2017

City of Austin

Historic Landmark Commission

Austin, TX

RE: HDP-2016-0928

Postponement request on 405 W. 14th Street demolition permit application

Dear Landmark Commission Members:

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) is a historic neighborhood in downtown Austin bounded by Lady Bird Lake, West 15th Street, Lamar Boulevard, and Lavaca Street.

Since 1974, OANA has worked to preserve and enhance the historic and residential character of this part of downtown, while embracing the need for new compatible development. Forty plus years of responsible advocacy has contributed to creating and sustaining one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in Austin.

The property at 405 West 14th Street is a historic structure, originally constructed around 1910 as a residence for a member of the Tobin family. It reflects the style, scale, and character of this unique neighborhood. The historic structure is currently used as an income producing property, and rehabilitation/restoration may make it eligible for both State Historic Tax Credits and the Federal Historic Tax Credits. Saving and re-zoning the property could provide development opportunities on the rest of the property.

By a majority vote the OANA Board requests this application for a demolition permit case be postponed to your February 27th meeting to allow more time to explore the best option for this historic property including options that would benefit the owner and the historic Old Austin neighborhood. That majority also:

- respectfully requests that the HLC direct Austin's Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff to initiate and investigate the appropriateness of COA Historical zoning to be attached to this property;
- is opposed to issuance of a demolition permit on a historic property for the purpose of constructing a surface parking lot, a use that is out of character with the surrounding historic properties; and,
- has proposed having conversations with the applicant regarding redevelopment options which would include saving the historic structure, and welcomes this opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration. Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ted Siff, President

Board of Directors

Ted Siff, President

Austin Stowell

Diana Zuniga

Michael Portman, Treasurer

Perry Lorenz

Charles Peveto

Blake Tollett, Secretary

Perry Horton

Ray Canfield

Bill Schnell